President’s Message: Dr. Rajen Vurdien

This past year has been full of significant accomplishments for the Fullerton College community. We awarded more than 1,600 associate degrees and nearly 400 career certificates. Our students won national championships and statewide competitions. We broke ground on our Technology & Engineering Complex and envisioned our future in the district-wide Comprehensive Master Plan. There is much for us to celebrate and take pride in as members of the Fullerton College family.

As our strong enrollment numbers indicate, Fullerton College has an excellent reputation in the community. Students believe they will earn a valuable education here, be treated well, and have a fulfilling college experience. We must continue to meet our students’ expectations, even during tight budget times. Our faculty and staff make it a priority, no matter their position, to honor our commitment to provide students with a user-friendly, helpful, courteous and responsive learning environment.

There is much excellence, accomplishment, and success to celebrate here. I am certain that, working together, we are up to the challenge. Fullerton College must and will move forward. Thank you for your support of Fullerton College and best wishes for an enjoyable summer!

Sincerely,
Dr. Rajen Vurdien

On June 7, 2012, construction firm C.W. Driver presented the Fullerton College Veterans Resource Center (VRC) with a check for $2,500. The donation will be used to expand the center as more and more veterans return to civilian life. C.W. Driver has worked with the college on numerous projects, including the current construction of the Technology & Engineering Complex.

Pictured are (L to R): VRC Counselor Sara Blasetti, Student Veteran Danielle Barbaro, VRC Director Paul McKinley, C.W. Driver Senior Project Manager Randy Rankin, Student Veteran Jason Hill, and Student Veteran Nathan Caro.
Fullerton College alumna participates in Great Debate rematch

Earlier this year, recent Fullerton College graduate Maria Mohammad took part in a rematch of The Great Debate. The original debate between Wiley College and the University of Southern California (USC) took place in 1935 and was significant because it was the first time a black college forensics team defeated their white counterparts. The 2007 film The Great Debaters, starring Denzel Washington, depicted the original debate.

Held during an era of segregation, Wiley College beat defending national champion USC to become the first historically black college to win the national championship. Wiley College President and CEO Dr. Haywood L. Strickland said in a school announcement that Wiley College and USC first met in a country divided by a color line.

"I am proud that all these years later, these schools will meet in a country that celebrates differences, knows that skin color is no determinant of intelligence, and recognizes that we share a common humanity," Strickland said.

The debate began with Cary Chavis, Wiley’s Debate Captain, offering a strong debate of the role of civil obedience throughout history, including most notably as an essential tactic of the Civil Rights Movement. Mohammad then catalogued the problems between modern efforts to utilize civil disobedience to achieve social change, from the Occupy Wall Street protests to efforts to block recent health care reform. Mohammad and Chavis also closed the evening with a series of powerful rebuttals that left the crowd buzzing.

Before the evening concluded, the audience had one more reason to cheer when USC invited Wiley back to Los Angeles for a future debate, an invitation that was eagerly accepted.

Fullerton College Athletics Hall of Fame: Class of 2012 includes surprise inductee

Television personality Ed Arnöd was inducted into the Fullerton College Athletic Hall of Fame in early May. Arnöd thought he was wrapping up another successful Hall of Fame event for Fullerton College when Dean of Athletics, Dr. Susan Beers, took the stage for a "special presentation." Arnöd’s wife Dixie was brought on to the stage when the announcement came.

"It was requested and secretly planned by his dear friend Gene Murphy (prior to his passing) that Ed be inducted into our Athletic Hall of Fame for his stellar service and dedication over the years to the college," Beers said. It was an emotional moment for Arnöd, as many of his close friends from Santa Ana College and Fullerton were in the audience.

The Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2012 included a group of stellar athletes, coaches and supporters that have made their mark at the college and beyond.

The inductees included: Oran Breeland (wrestling coach), Harry McCalla (cross country), Annette Gonzales Christie (softball), Gene Murphy (football coach), Tim Harvey (water polo/swimming), Dave Ogas (football), Connie Jaster James (tennis), JC Pearson (football), and the 1965-69 Women’s All-Sport Team (basketball, field hockey, softball, volleyball), and Ed Arnöd (special recognition).
Fullerton College hires a permanent dean, director, and interim vice president

Fullerton College is pleased to announce the hiring of a new Dean of Physical Education, David Grossman; Director of the Cadena-Transfer Center, Cecilia Arriaza; and Interim Vice President of Administrative Services, Claudette Dain. They will begin their new assignments in early July. “I look forward to working with David, Cecilia, and Claudette,” says Dr. Rajen Vurdien, President of Fullerton College. “The experience and knowledge they bring with them to the college will directly benefit our students.”

**David Grossman**

David Grossman attended West Valley College where he earned an Associate of Arts degree in Business Administration in 1985. That same year he transferred to CSU Fullerton (CSUF) where he studied physical education and athletic administration. In 1986, he began his collegiate coaching career with the CSUF men’s basketball team.

In 1989, David served as an assistant coach at DeAnza College. He then returned to CSUF as an assistant men's basketball coach and to complete his Master’s degree. In 1992, David was the co-coach of the women’s basketball team at Cerritos College as well as an adjunct physical education instructor. He then served as the Men’s Basketball Coach at Barstow College for 10 years, while also teaching classes. David was named the college’s Dean of Instruction in December 2011.

While a faculty member at Barstow Community College, David was a member of the statewide Academic Senate for California Community Colleges. Currently, he is in the Community College Leadership Education Doctorate Program at CSUF with an anticipated completion date of May 2013.

**Cecilia Arriaza**

Cecilia Arriaza received her Bachelor's in Psychology and Master's in Education with a concentration in Race and Ethnic Studies from UCLA. She currently serves as a Student Services Coordinator and Adjunct Faculty member at Santa Ana College.

In her role at Santa Ana, Cecilia oversaw the daily activities of the University Transfer Center, supervised staff, managed the center’s budget, and created programs and services aimed at facilitating transfer. In addition, she was active in securing external sources of funding for new transfer initiatives and student scholarships.

Prior to her experience at Santa Ana, Cecilia coordinated federal student programs at CSU Long Beach and worked in the UCLA undergraduate admissions department.

**Claudette Dain**

Claudette Dain joins Fullerton College as the Interim Vice President for Administrative Services at Fullerton College. Claudette is currently the North Orange County Community College District (NOCCCD) Director of Fiscal Affairs.

Prior to her arrival at NOCCCD, Claudette was a Senior Manager at the Accounting Firm of Vicenti, LLoyd & Stutzman, LLP. She is a Certified Public Accountant with a Bachelor's in Accounting from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona and an MBA from CSU Dominguez Hills.
2012 Fullerton College Commencement

Over 475 graduates, the highest in Fullerton College’s 98-year history, took part in the 2012 Commencement ceremony, held on Wednesday, May 30, in the Fullerton Union High School Stadium. CSU Fullerton President Emeritus Dr. Milton Gordon accepted the 2012 Commencement Award, while City of Fullerton Mayor Sharon Quirk-Silva encouraged students to look forward to the future. Man of Distinction Manuel Chavira delivered the Student Commencement Speech and reflected on the journey that led him to the college as a re-entry student. Congratulations to all of the graduates and best wishes for your future!

Humanities’ Jeanne Costello named 2012 Fullerton College Teacher of the Year

In early April, Humanities Professor Jeanne Costello was named the 2012 Fullerton College Teacher of the Year in a surprise ceremony attended by members of the college’s administration.

Jeanne received her Bachelor of Arts from the University of California, Los Angeles and her Master of Arts from the University of California, Santa Barbara. She came to Fullerton College in 1992 after teaching at both of her alma maters.

An active faculty member, Jeanne is a member of the Faculty Senate, Student Success Committee, and the Transfer Achievement Program. Until 2009, Costello served as the English Department Coordinator. She is currently the college’s Basic Skills Faculty Coordinator.

Current and past students say Costello is a dedicated faculty member who truly cares about her students. Numerous students comment that she meets with them outside of class to ensure their success in both class and life, and it is not uncommon to hear of students who keep in contact with her years after they leave Fullerton College.

Costello was selected 2012 Teacher of the Year from a group of finalists by a committee composed of members of the Associated Students’ Curriculum & Education Committee and the Faculty Senate. The four other finalists were Social Sciences’ Angie Andrus, Jodi Balma, and Francis Mummery, and Technology & Engineering’s Jay Seidel.